

Commissioners:

I am outraged to hear that Sinclair Broadcasting may be permitted to air an anti-Kerry documentary at this point in the election season -- without having to perfectly balance that presentation with a film presenting an opposing point of view, or similarly impugning the Republicans' candidate, Mr. Bush!

Offering a candidate the time "to respond" without the response being "in kind" (e.g., another film) is not at all adequate. And to think that Sinclair is not just offering this propaganda to its stations -- but requiring them to air it -- makes this all the more outrageous. I cannot believe that such a thing is even possible on the publicly-owned airwaves of the United States of America!

The FCC has the power and the DUTY to prevent this outrage. Truly fair and balanced discourse is vital to the very survival of our democracy. I trust that your Commission will act promptly and decisively to disallow any candidates or media owners to hijack the airways with propaganda masquerading as "news."

This whole problem illustrates why you were wrong to permit a continuing consolidation of media power in the hands of a few media owners, and wrong to continually loosen the regulatory reins over media enterprises. I hope you will also reconsider your actions on these critical issues at the earliest opportunity.

Thank you.

Nan B. Clingman